Econ 133 – Exams and Grading

There are two midterm quizzes and a final exam. Credit is also given for answering questions about the readings. For the midterm quizzes:

*Bring (1) small scantron card* (green/while, 50 questions each side). * (2) picture ID. (3) pencils (No.2). I provide exam copies—no need for a blue book.

**Exam Rules:**

- All exams are closed book.
- You may use a simple pocket calculator, but NOT a programmable/graphing calculator. In problem questions, I usually give points for knowing what to do, not for numerical accuracy; and reasonably rounded answers are accepted for full credit. Some numerical problems are probably done more quickly without a calculator.
- Phones and other wireless or networked devices are prohibited and must be turned off and out of reach.
  You cannot use your cell phone as watch or calculator.
- Use a No.2 pencil for the scantron. I recommend a pen for the problem questions (not erasable, not red).

**Academic Integrity:** See [http://www.econ.ucsb.edu/undergraduate/cheating.html](http://www.econ.ucsb.edu/undergraduate/cheating.html) for general information. Cheating disadvantages honest students. To discourage cheating:

1. Exams may come in multiple versions, without further announcement. Make sure you put the exam number on your scantron.
2. Phones and other network-capable devices must be off (not just silent) and out of reach. Any use of a network-capable device is considered cheating.
3. No one may leave the room during a test. (Take a bathroom break before the test.)
4. Every student must bring a picture ID and have it on display during the test.
5. At the start, put your name and signature on your exam copy and scantron. I may walk up to randomly selected students to compare signatures on the exam and on their ID.

If you believe I could do more to maintain the integrity of tests, I would appreciate a hint. (Or use the Econ department link to report cheating anonymously.)

**Requirements and Grading:**

- The overall grade distribution is the weighted sum of quiz scores, points from readings, and the final.
- The quizzes are multiple-choice, in class, and will be short (20-30min). Class will continue after a quiz ends. Each quiz is scored on a 0-100 scale and counts for 20% of the course grade. Many quiz questions will be from a list provided by the textbook publisher. The quizzes are not cumulative—Quiz 1 tests part I and Quiz 2 tests part II of the course.
- The final exam consists of one essay and several problem questions. The essay will ask about one of the articles in part III of the course. (This is to equalize weights, since parts I-II were tested in quizzes.) The
problem questions are cumulative and will test topics covered in class and in the required textbook chapters. The final is scored on a 0-100 scale and, unless modified below, counts for 60% of the grade.

- Credit is given for answering questions about certain readings (usually journal articles). The readings are marked by a star [*] in the course outline. The answers are due at the start of classes and should be on the submission form posted on GauchoSpace. There are two questions per reading. An adequate answer earns one point. (That is, grading is effectively pass-fail—you get the point or not. A spectacularly good answer might earn an extra point.)

Points reduce the weight of the final: For each point you earn on readings, the weight of the final is reduced by 1 percent, and the point gives full credit. (For example, suppose someone scores 90 on quiz 1, 95 on quiz 2, and 80 on the final. Without readings, the overall score is 90*0.20+95*0.20+80*0.60=85. With 15 points from readings, the final weight would be reduced to 45% and score is 90*0.20+95*0.20+80*0.45+15=88.)

- Quizzes and the final are mandatory. There are no make-ups. Missing **without** valid excuse means zero points. Missing a quiz **with** a valid excuse means that the weight of the quiz is moved to the final.

- Questions on readings are optional and can only improve your grade. The gain is small if you score close to 100 on the final, but it’s protection against scoring low. Late submissions are not accepted for any reason.

- The grade distribution for Econ electives is typically about 30% As and about 45% Bs. Since the class is new, I believe it is appropriate to give you the protection of a curve. That is: I am committed to give no less than 30% in the range A+ to A- and no less than 75% in the range A+ to B- together.